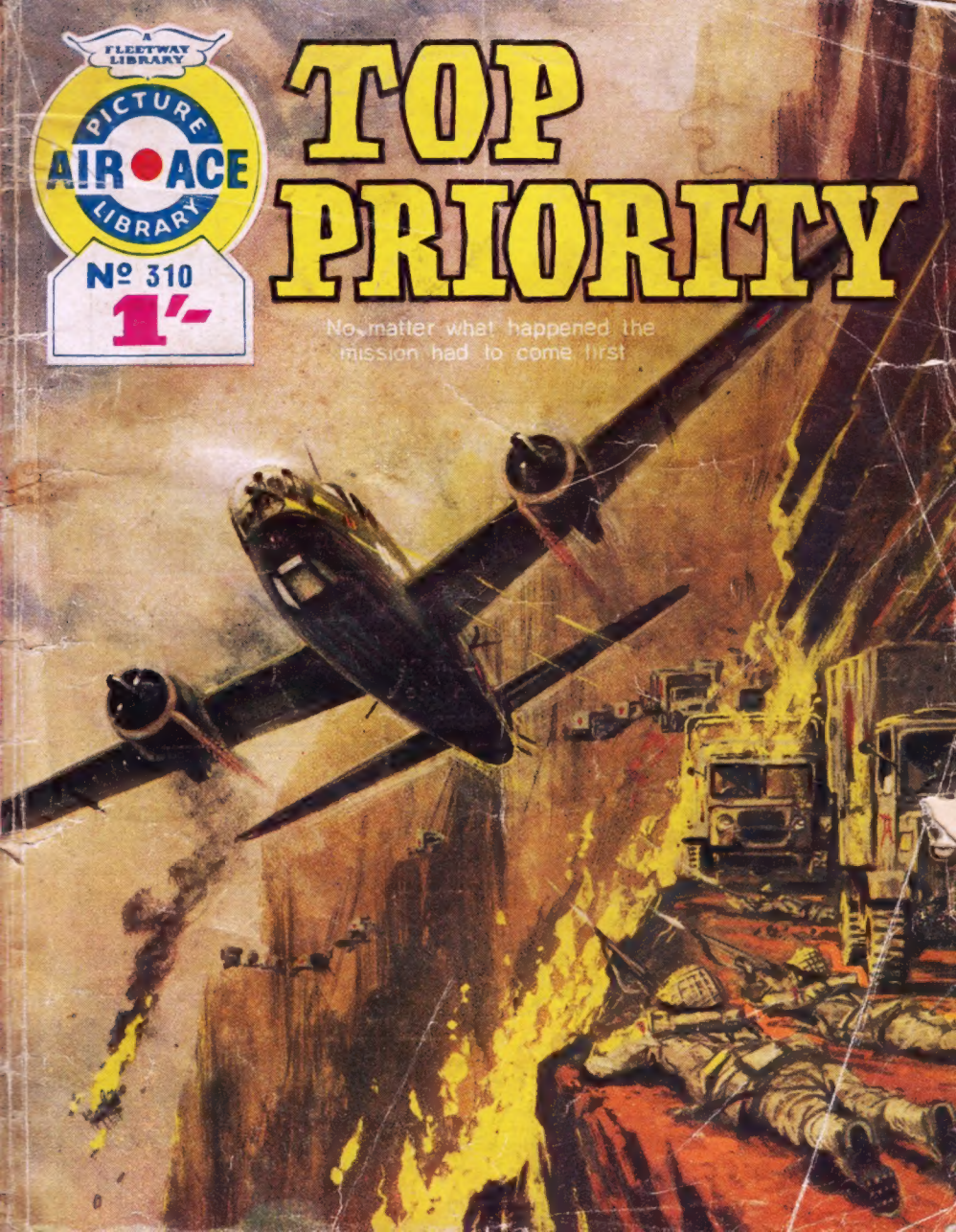
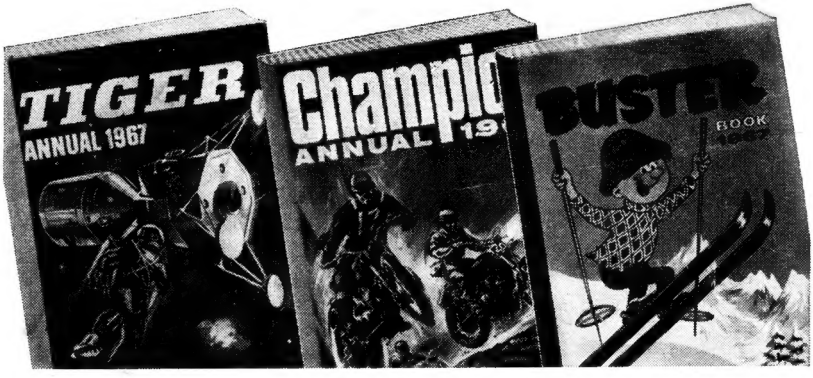

A FLEETWAY LIBRARY
PICTURE
AIR ACE
LIBRARY
Nº 310
1/-
TOP PRIORITY
No matter what happened the mission had to come first



THRILLING NEWS EVERY BOY WILL WANT TO HEAR!

These grand annuals are already in the shops!

TIGER ANNUAL 1967 — 9/6

128 exciting pages packed with new picture-adventures of Typhoon Tracy, Roy of the Rovers, Jailbird Commandos and many others from Tiger and Hurricane. Also: behind the scenes at BBC Grandstand, London's Crime Busters and lots more.

CHAMPION ANNUAL 1967 — 9/6

160 all-action pages featuring such Champion favourites as the Phantom Viking, Bartok, Jet Jordan, Cosmic Nick and Lofty Lightyear. And an eight-page colour feature on motor racing, superb articles and pictures.

BUSTER BOOK 1967 — 5/6

Laughs and thrills with Buster favourites Jimmy Edwards, Charlie Drake, Tin Teacher, the Mighty Misfits, Charlie Peace and many others. Jokes, puzzles and cartoons.

MAKE SURE OF YOUR COPIES NOW!

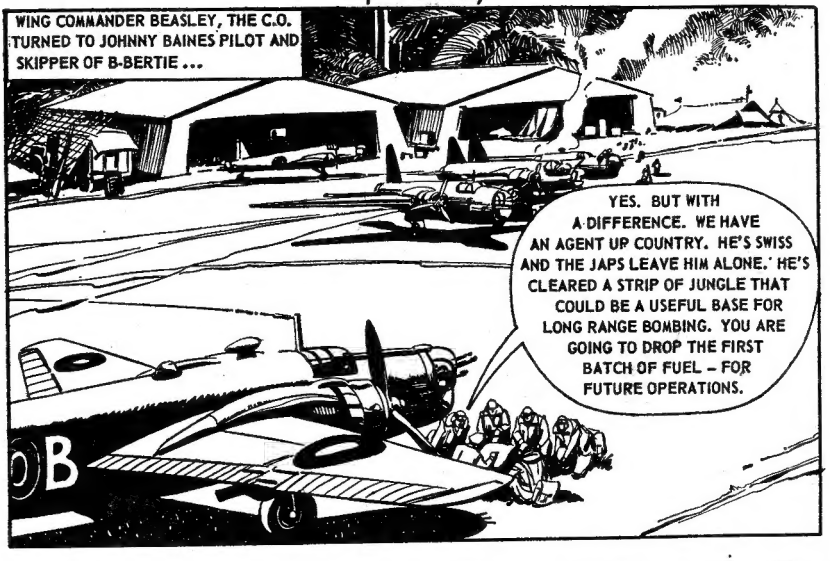
Fleetway Annuals

(PRICES IN U.K. ONLY)

TOP PRIORITY

© Fleetway Publications Ltd., 1966

CHAPTER 1. Talk Down


WING COMMANDER BEASLEY, THE C.O. TURNED TO JOHNNY BAINES PILOT AND SKIPPER OF B-BERTIE ...
YES. BUT WITH A DIFFERENCE. WE HAVE AN AGENT UP COUNTRY. HE'S SWISS AND THE JAPS LEAVE HIM ALONE. HE'S CLEARED A STRIP OF JUNGLE THAT COULD BE A USEFUL BASE FOR LONG RANGE BOMBING. YOU ARE GOING TO DROP THE FIRST BATCH OF FUEL – FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS.
B

THE WHOLE OPERATION SOUNDED SIMPLE ENOUGH. BUT EACH MEMBER OF THE CREW KNEW THAT THE MISSION WAS EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS.
NOW DON'T DROP UNTIL YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE EXACT POSITION. REMEMBER, SERGEANT PARSONS, YOU'LL MORE THAN LIKELY BE INTERCEPTED BY FIGHTERS.
DON'T YOU WORRY, SIR. ME AND MY GUNS WILL BE READY!

IT WAS LATE AFTERNOON WHEN THE LADEN WELLINGTON LIFTED INTO THE SKY ....
FLY 035 DEGREES, SKIPPER.
ROGER, NAVIGATOR.

AS B-BERTIE FLEW NORTH OVER THE STEAMING JUNGLE, CURT ARLBERG, RUBBER PLANTER AND BRITISH AGENT, WAITED ANXIOUSLY ...
KUAN LAI, AS SOON AS YOU SEE ME FLASH ONCE WITH MY TORCH, LIGHT THE THREE SIGNAL FIRES. UNDERSTAND?
IT WILL BE DONE AS YOU SAY, TUAN.

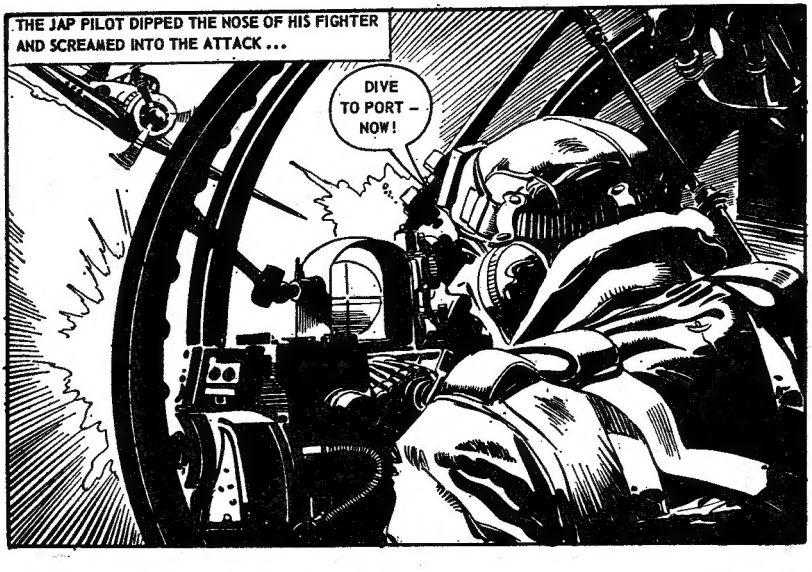
DARKNESS BLANKETTED THE JUNGLE AS B-BERTIE NEARED THE DROP AREA ...
WE SHOULD BE OVER THE DROPPING ZONE IN ONE MINUTE FIFTEEN SECONDS FROM NOW!
THREE LIGHTS DEAD AHEAD, SKIPPER, ABOUT TWO MILES.

JOHNNY BAINES PUT THE WELLINGTON INTO A SHALLOW DIVE AS THE TELL-TALE LIGHTS LOOMED NEARER ...
FIRST CANISTER GONE.
GET RID OF THEM QUICK!

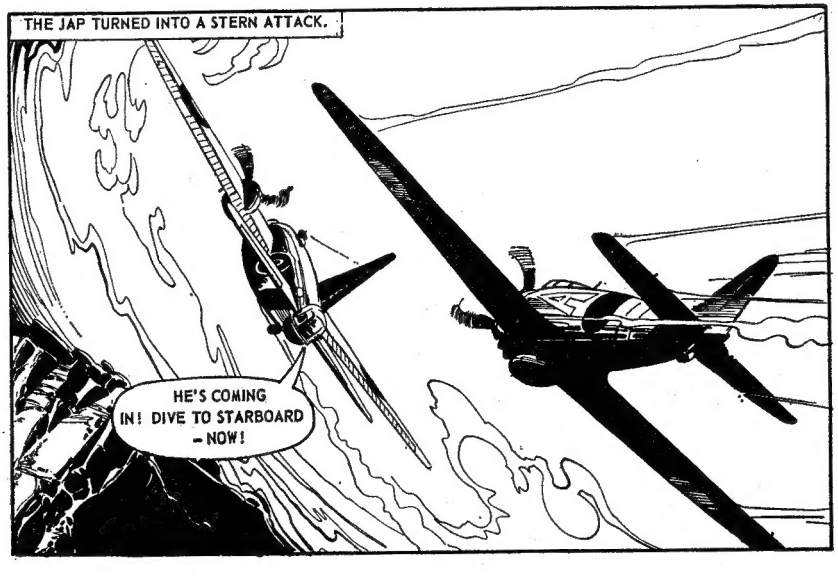
IT WAS A PERFECT DROP ...
GOOD BOYS! KUAN LAI HURRY AND GET THE CANS UNDER COVER.

B-BERTIE TURNED ON TO COURSE FOR BASE AS THE MOON CLIMBED SLOWLY INTO THE SKY.
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR FIGHTERS. WE'RE SILHOUETTED IN THIS MOONLIGHT.
O.K. SKIPPER!

IT WAS A TIMELY WARNING. THE NARROW EYES OF A ZERO PILOT HAD ALREADY PICKED OUT THE DARK SHAPE ....
HUH! A WELLINGTON!
FIGHTER! FIGHTER! ON THE PORT QUARTER! SEVEN HUNDRED YARDS!


THE JAP PILOT DIPPED THE NOSE OF HIS FIGHTER AND SCREAMED INTO THE ATTACK ...
DIVE TO PORT – NOW!

BUT IN THE FACE OF THE FEROCIOUS FIRE FROM BILL PARSON'S REAR TURRET, THE JAP BROKE AWAY, CIRCLING WARILY AROUND HIS QUARRY ...
THIS ONE'S KEEN! CAN'T YOU TAKE HER TO LOW-LEVEL, SKIPPER?
DAREN'T RISK IT. THERE'S TOO MUCH HIGH GROUND ABOUT HERE!


THE JAP TURNED INTO A STERN ATTACK.
HE'S COMING IN! DIVE TO STARBOARD - NOW!

JOHNNY THREW THE WELLINGTON INTO A TIGHT DIVING TURN EVEN AS THE JAP'S MACHINE GUNS STITCHED ALONG THE FUSELAGE OF B-BERTIE ...
GOT HIM! GOT HIM!
AAGH!
SKIPPER! YOU ALL RIGHT?

AS THE JAP ZERO PLUNGED EARTHWARD, THE WELLINGTON LURCHED AFTER IT, AS JOHNNY BAINES SLUMPED OVER THE CONTROLS ...
JEFF! LOFTY! IT'S JOHNNY – HE'S DEAD!

'SNOWY' WHITE, THE BOMB-AIMER, TOOK THE CONTROLS AS THE OTHERS LAID JOHNNY ON THE COCKPIT FLOOR ...

SNOWY, IT'S UP TO YOU TO GET US BACK.

YOU'D BETTER LET ME HAVE A COURSE FOR BASE. DON'T WORRY, BLOKES, WE'LL MAKE IT!

A BOMB AIMER WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER FROM HIS PILOT. IN PRACTICE HOWEVER THE BOMB AIMER HAD LITTLE EXPERIENCE OF FLYING. SNOWY HAD HAD NO EXPERIENCE OF LANDING A WELLINGTON...

WE SHOULD BE OVER BASE IN PRECISELY FOUR MINUTES. YOU'D BETTER CALL UP.

HELLO GAUCHO! HELLO GAUCHO! THIS IS EGGCUP B-BERTIE. OUR PILOT IS DEAD. THIS IS AN EMERGENCY ...

IT WAS A DIFFICULT MOMENT FOR WING COMMANDER BEASLEY, HE NEEDED EVERY AIRCRAFT BADLY. HE ALSO NEEDED CREWS – GOOD CREWS.

HELLO EGGCUP B-BERTIE. FIRST BALE OUT THE CREW. IF – AND ONLY IF – YOU FEEL YOU CAN MAKE IT – BRING HER IN. WE'LL GIVE YOU GUIDANCE. IF YOU'RE IN DOUBT BALE OUT. OVER!

HELLO GAUCHO! I CAN MAKE IT. BALING OUT CREW NOW!

BUT THE CREW OF B-BERTIE DECIDED TO STICK TOGETHER ...

O.K., BLOKES, KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED, I'M TURNING INTO THE APPROACH NOW.

HELLO B-BERTIE. REDUCE AIR-SPEED TO 125 KNOTS.

PERSPIRATION RAN DOWN SNOWY'S FACE AS THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM GROUND CONTROL REACHED HIM ...

ZERO BOOST – REDUCE AIR SPEED SLOWLY NOW TO 110.

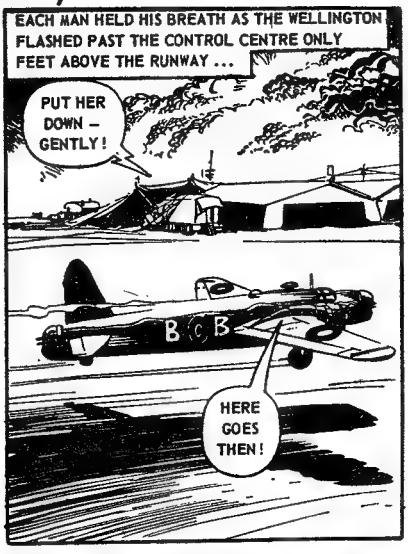
THANK YOU GAUCHO. REDUCING SPEED NOW.

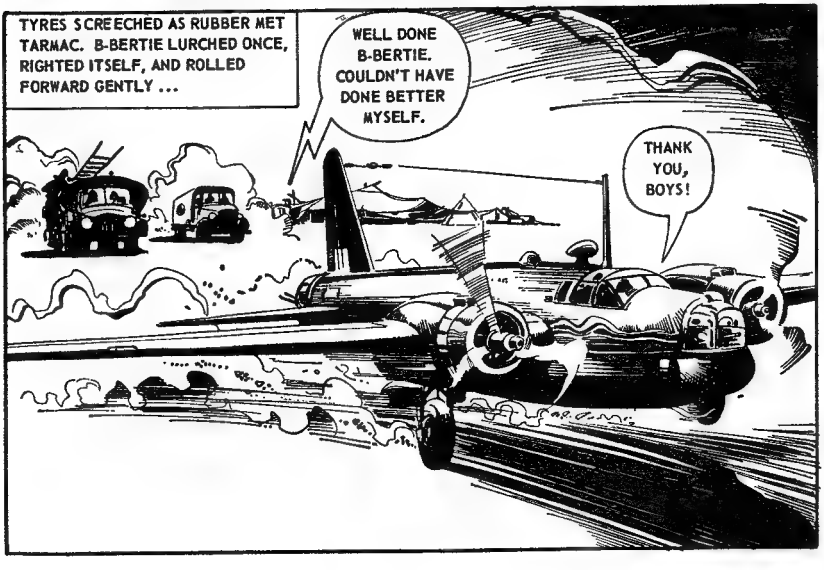
THE AIRSTRIP'S LANDING LIGHTS RUSHED UP TO MEET THEM ...

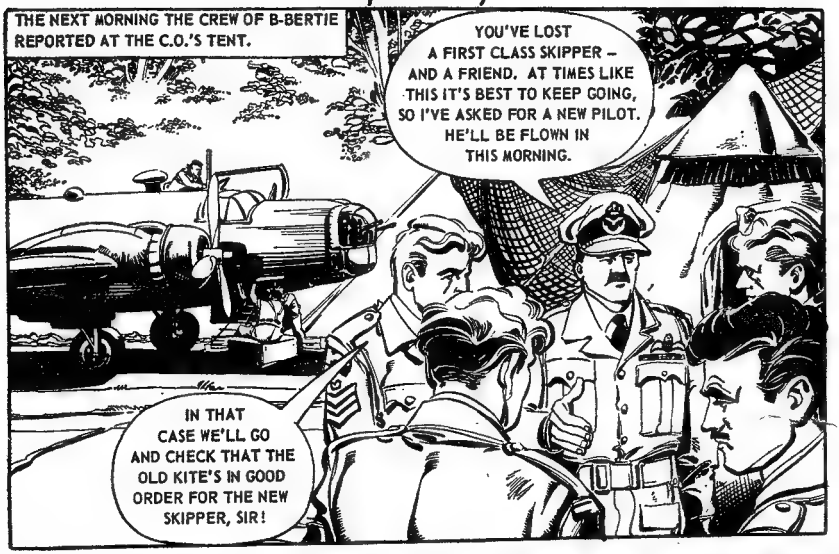
HELLO GAUCHO. I'M LOSING SPEED FAST! WHAT NEXT?

EASE THE STICK FORWARD SLIGHTLY!

THE SECONDS BEFORE TOUCH DOWN SEEMED ETERNAL.
HOLD HER OFF UNTIL WE GIVE THE WORD. YOU'RE DOING FINE ...


EACH MAN HELD HIS BREATH AS THE WELLINGTON FLASHED PAST THE CONTROL CENTRE ONLY FEET ABOVE THE RUNWAY ...
PUT HER DOWN – GENTLY!
B B
HERE GOES THEN!

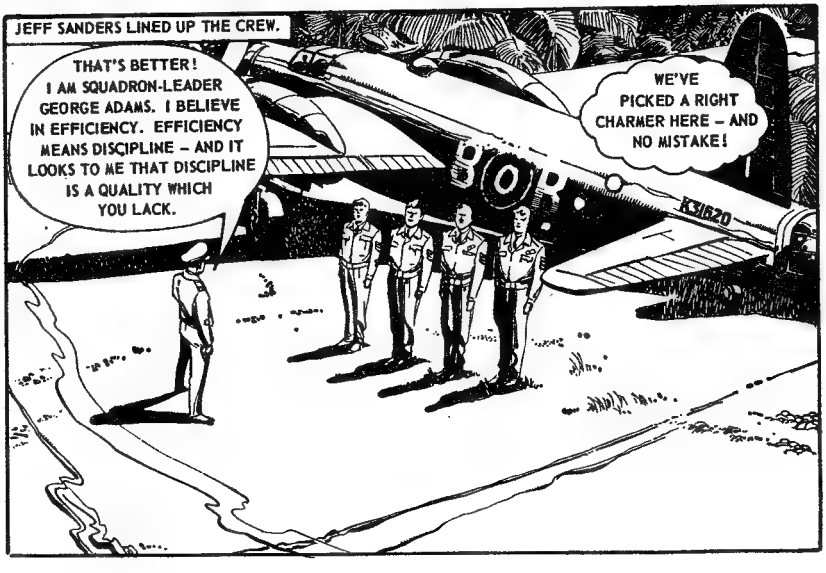

TYRES SCREECHED AS RUBBER MET TARMAC. B-BERTIE LURCHED ONCE, RIGHTED ITSELF, AND ROLLED FORWARD GENTLY ...
WELL DONE B-BERTIE. COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER MYSELF.
THANK YOU, BOYS!


THE NEXT MORNING THE CREW OF B-BERTIE REPORTED AT THE C.O.'S TENT.
YOU'VE LOST A FIRST CLASS SKIPPER – AND A FRIEND. AT TIMES LIKE THIS IT'S BEST TO KEEP GOING, SO I'VE ASKED FOR A NEW PILOT. HE'LL BE FLOWN IN THIS MORNING.
IN THAT CASE WE'LL GO AND CHECK THAT THE OLD KITE'S IN GOOD ORDER FOR THE NEW SKIPPER, SIR!

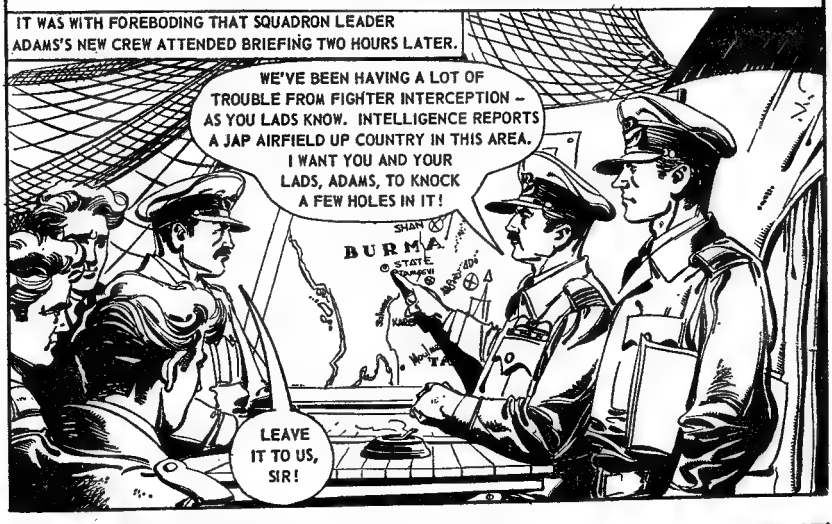
TWO HOURS LATER THE CREW HAD FINISHED THEIR INSPECTION AND WERE RESTING IN THE SHADOW OF B-BERTIE ...
WELL, BOYS, LOOKS LIKE OUR SKIPPER.
DOESN'T LOOK VERY CHEERFUL DOES HE?

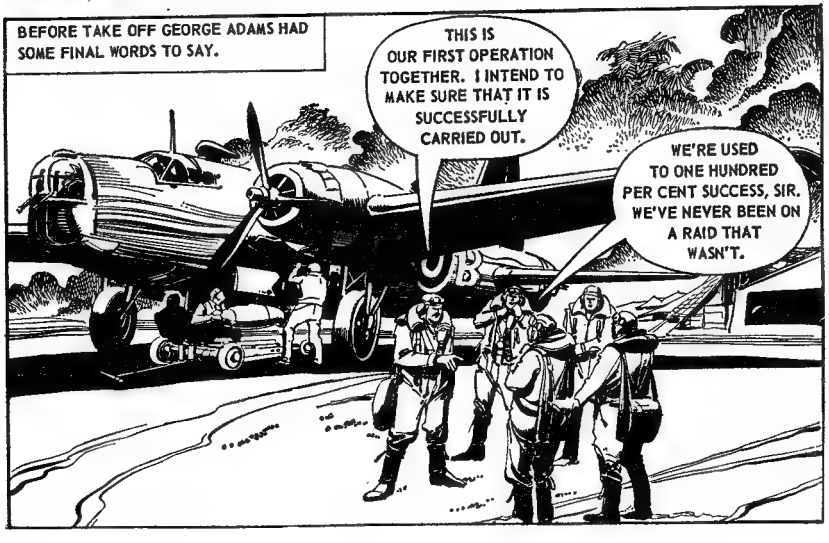
THE OFFICER STOPPED AS HE REACHED THE GROUP OF MEN ...
ARE YOU OUR NEW SKIPPER, SIR?
YOU I TAKE IT ARE SERGEANT SANDERS. IT WOULD BE MORE CORRECT, SERGEANT, IF WE SAID THAT YOU'RE MY NEW CREW.

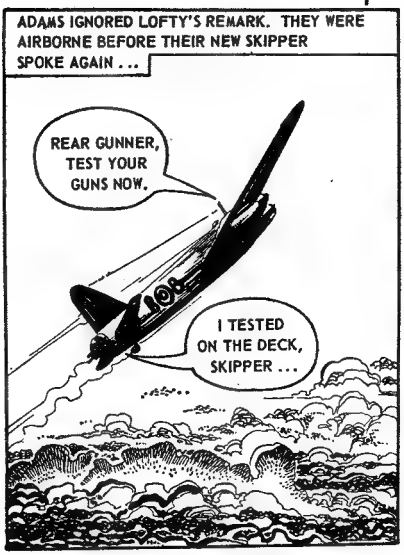
IT WAS AN UNPROMISING START. WORSE WAS TO COME.
I TAKE IT THAT YOU ARE ALL IN THE LAST STAGES OF FATIGUE. OTHERWISE YOU WOULD STAND TO ATTENTION IN FRONT OF YOUR SUPERIOR OFFICER.
BEG YOUR PARDON – SIR. LADS – ON YOUR FEET.


JEFF SANDERS LINED UP THE CREW.
THAT'S BETTER! I AM SQUADRON-LEADER GEORGE ADAMS. I BELIEVE IN EFFICIENCY. EFFICIENCY MEANS DISCIPLINE – AND IT LOOKS TO ME THAT DISCIPLINE IS A QUALITY WHICH YOU LACK.
WE'VE PICKED A RIGHT CHARMER HERE – AND NO MISTAKE!
BOR
K3620

CHAPTER 2. The Saboteurs

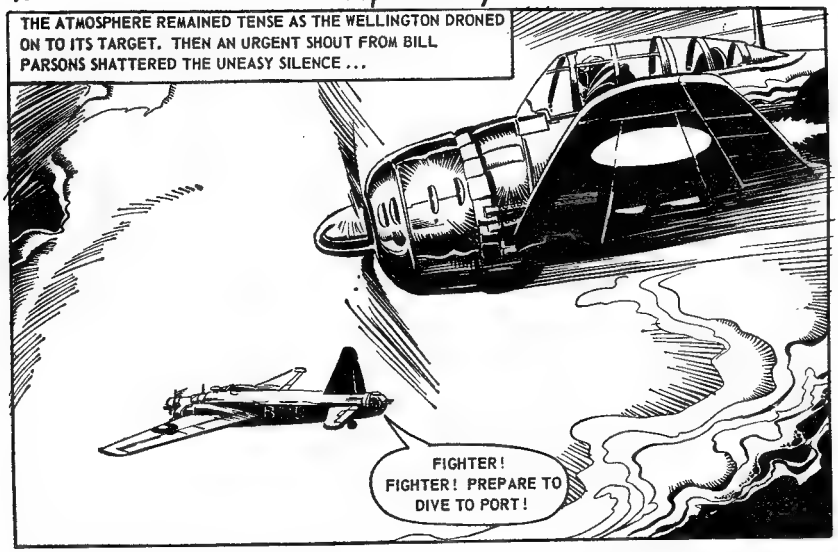


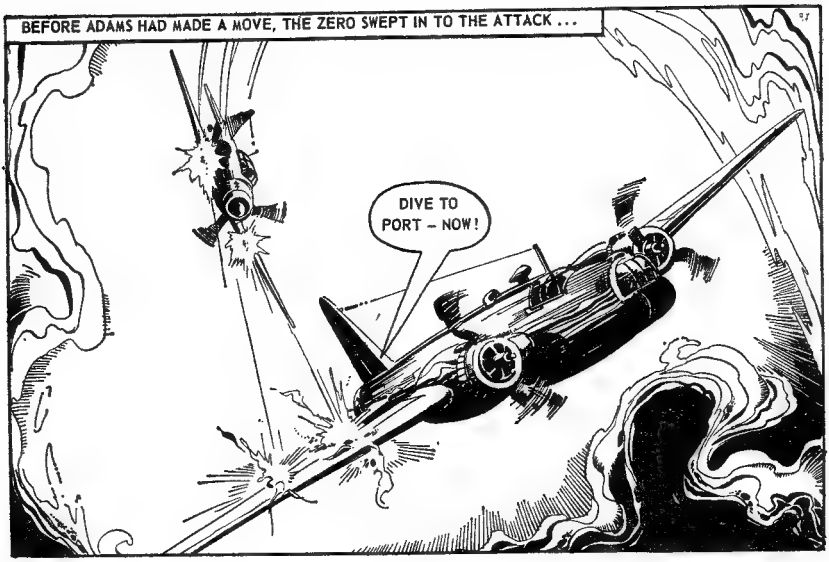


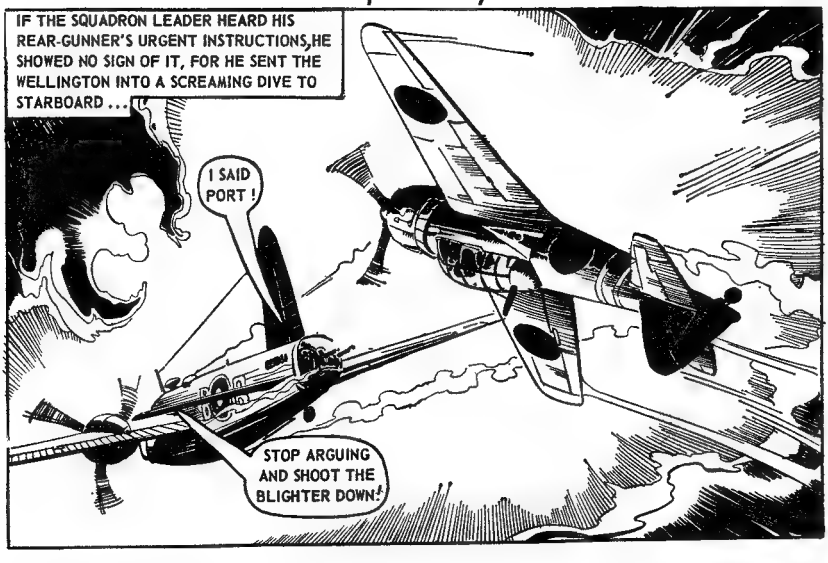

ADAMS IGNORED LOFTY'S REMARK. THEY WERE AIRBORNE BEFORE THEIR NEW SKIPPER SPOKE AGAIN ...
REAR GUNNER, TEST YOUR GUNS NOW.
I TESTED ON THE DECK, SKIPPER ...

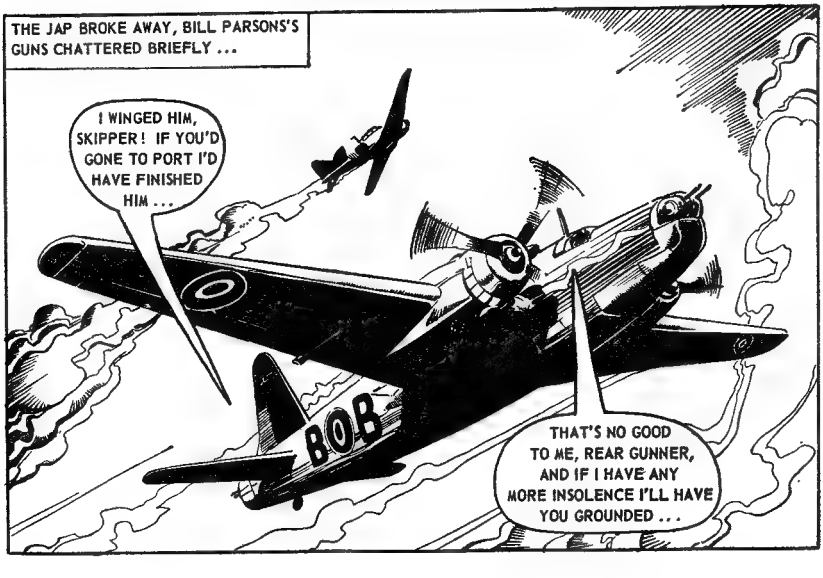
ADAMS CUT BILL PARSONS SHORT ...
DON'T ARGUE! TEST YOUR GUNS! NAVIGATOR, WHAT IS OUR POSITION?
HALF A MOMENT, SKIPPER – I'VE JUST GOT TO WORK IT OUT ...

ADAMS SWUNG ROUND IN FURY ...
I DON'T THINK YOU QUITE UNDERSTAND, NAVIGATOR. WHEN I ASK FOR A POSITION I EXPECT AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER.
WE ARE ON COURSE, CROSSING THE SALWEEN RIVER – SIR!


THE ATMOSPHERE REMAINED TENSE AS THE WELLINGTON DRONED ON TO ITS TARGET. THEN AN URGENT SHOUT FROM BILL PARSONS SHATTERED THE UNEASY SILENCE ...
FIGHTER! FIGHTER! PREPARE TO DIVE TO PORT!

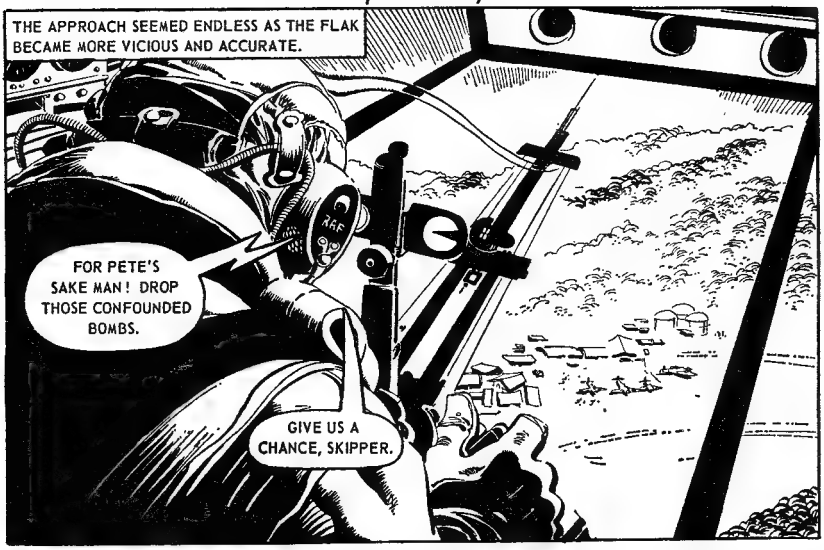

BEFORE ADAMS HAD MADE A MOVE, THE ZERO SWEPT IN TO THE ATTACK ...
DIVE TO PORT – NOW!

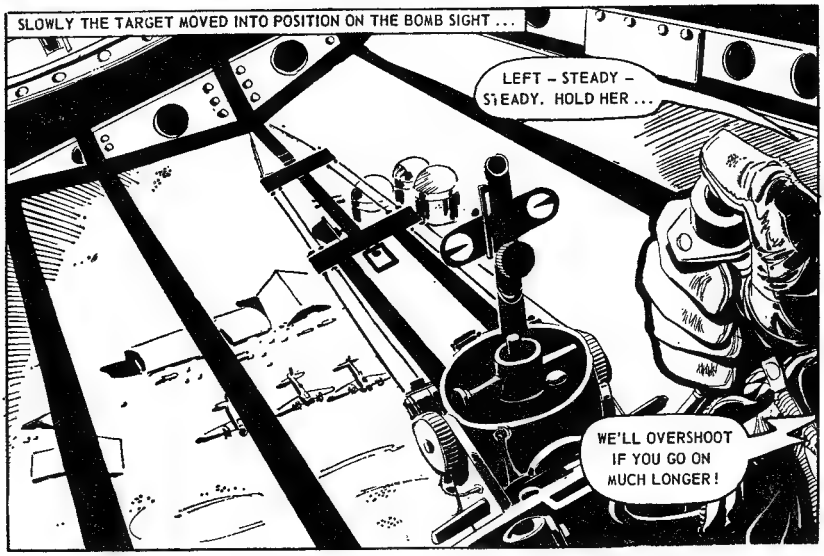

IF THE SQUADRON LEADER HEARD HIS REAR-GUNNER'S URGENT INSTRUCTIONS, HE SHOWED NO SIGN OF IT, FOR HE SENT THE WELLINGTON INTO A SCREAMING DIVE TO STARBOARD ...
I SAID PORT !
STOP ARGUING AND SHOOT THE BLIGHTER DOWN!


THE JAP BROKE AWAY, BILL PARSONS'S GUNS CHATTERED BRIEFLY ...
I WINGED HIM, SKIPPER! IF YOU'D GONE TO PORT I'D HAVE FINISHED HIM ...
BOB
THAT'S NO GOOD TO ME, REAR GUNNER, AND IF I HAVE ANY MORE INSOLENCE I'LL HAVE YOU GROUNDED ...

THE JAP PILOT DID NOT ATTACK AGAIN AND SOON THEIR TARGET LOOMED AHEAD ...
TARGET COMING UP, SIR. SHOULD BE ABOUT TWO MILES DEAD AHEAD.
HUH! IT'S FIVE MILES, ABOUT 10 DEGREES TO STARBOARD. BOMB-DOORS OPEN, BOMB-AIMER.

AS THEY SWEPT IN ON THEIR BOMB-RUN THE ENEMY GUNNERS OPENED FIRE ...
PLENTY OF FLAK, SKIPPER.
DROP THOSE BOMBS AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.


THE APPROACH SEEMED ENDLESS AS THE FLAK BECAME MORE VICIOUS AND ACCURATE.
FOR PETE'S SAKE MAN! DROP THOSE CONFOUNDED BOMBS.
GIVE US A CHANCE, SKIPPER.


SLOWLY THE TARGET MOVED INTO POSITION ON THE BOMB SIGHT ...
LEFT – STEADY – STEADY. HOLD HER ...
WE'LL OVERSHOOT IF YOU GO ON MUCH LONGER!

SNOWY TURNED ANGRILY AS HIS TARGET SWUNG AWAY ...
WE'VE GONE TOO FAR TO PORT. WE'LL HAVE TO GO ROUND AGAIN!
NO! I'M JETTISONING THE LOAD!

SQUADRON LEADER ADAMS HAULED THE WELLINGTON INTO A STEEP CLIMB AS THE BOMBS WERE RELEASED...
MISSED! BY ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED YARDS.
QUIET! IF WE'VE MISSED IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE A SECOND-RATE CREW.

THEY RETURNED TO BASE IN SILENCE. ADAMS WAS THE FIRST TO LEAVE THE AIRCRAFT. JEFF SANDERS STALKED AFTER HIM ...

JUST A MINUTE, SIR. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I THINK YOU ARE BEING UNFAIR TO YOUR CREW.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

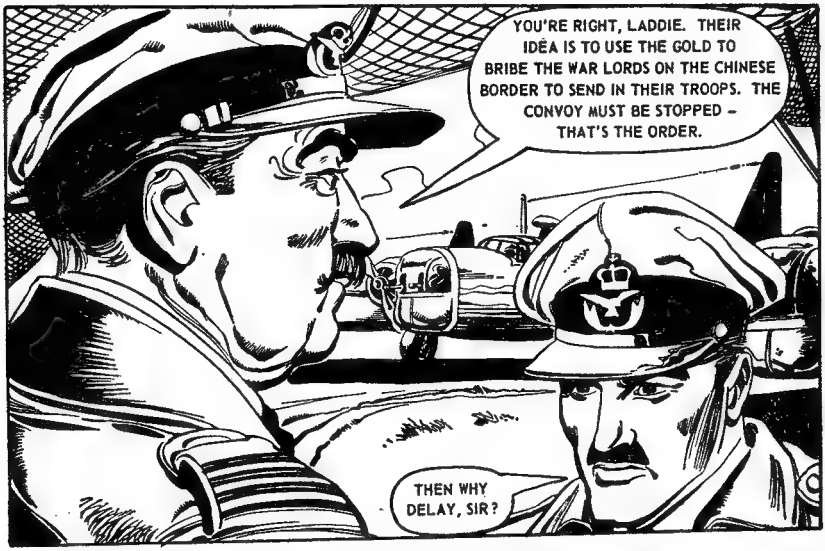
I'M TRYING TO SAY – SIR – THAT WE RECEIVED NO CO-OPERATION FROM YOU. YOUR REAR-GUNNER'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE IGNORED AND YOUR BOMB-AIMER'S, COME TO THAT ...

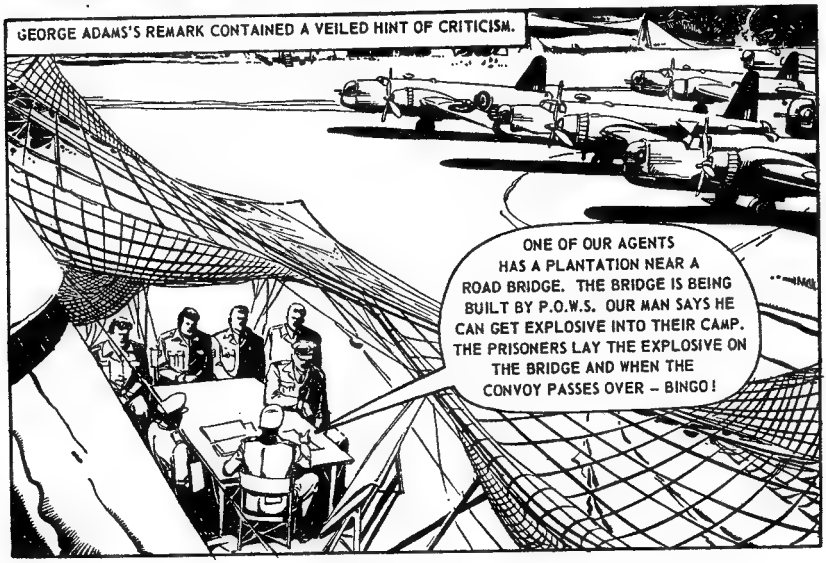
THIS IS INSUBORDINATION!

LUCKILY, THERE WAS A TIMELY INTERRUPTION ...
BREAK IT UP! NOW, WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?
THESE MEN ARE ... QUESTIONING MY HANDLING OF THE OPERATION.

WING COMMANDER BEASLEY WAS NO FOOL. HE LISTENED IN SILENCE TO GEORGE ADAMS'S ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED ...
ALL RIGHT. NOW I SUGGEST THAT YOU ALL GET SOME SLEEP. WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT IN THE MORNING.
IF YOU THINK IT NECESSARY, SIR. BUT I'VE NOTHING TO ADD.

ADAMS WAS IN NO BETTER MOOD THE NEXT MORNING WHEN HE REPORTED TO THE C.O. ...
ADAMS, I KNOW THESE LADS. THEY'RE A FIRST CLASS CREW. I THINK YOU'RE TREATING THEM THE WRONG WAY. TAKE IT EASY ...
IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO SUPPORT ME, SIR – THEN I SHALL REPORT THE MATTER TO THE A.O.C. ...
WING COMMANDER BEASLEY TURNED ANGRILY ...
IN MY OPINION I HAVE NEVER MET A MAN SO LACKING IN THE ABILITY TO LEAD MEN. YOU WILL FLY WITH THIS CREW – WHO ARE A DARNED SIGHT TOO GOOD FOR YOU. BRIEFING WILL BE IN HALF AN HOUR ...
THE BRIEFING TOOK PLACE IN A TENSE ATMOSPHERE ...
THIS OPERATION WILL NOT TAKE PLACE FOR ANOTHER TWO DAYS – IF IT TAKES PLACE AT ALL. BUT I WANT YOU TO BE PREPARED. THE JAPS ARE TAKING A BULLION CONVOY UP THE BURMA ROAD ...
BURMA
STATE
LADS
THEY'LL NEVER GET IT TO JAPAN BY THAT ROUTE, SIR!


YOU'RE RIGHT, LADDIE. THEIR IDÊA IS TO USE THE GOLD TO BRIBE THE WAR LORDS ON THE CHINESE BORDER TO SEND IN THEIR TROOPS. THE CONVOY MUST BE STOPPED – THAT'S THE ORDER.
THEN WHY DELAY, SIR?


GEORGE ADAMS'S REMARK CONTAINED A VEILED HINT OF CRITICISM.
ONE OF OUR AGENTS HAS A PLANTATION NEAR A ROAD BRIDGE. THE BRIDGE IS BEING BUILT BY P.O.W.S. OUR MAN SAYS HE CAN GET EXPLOSIVE INTO THEIR CAMP. THE PRISONERS LAY THE EXPLOSIVE ON THE BRIDGE AND WHEN THE CONVOY PASSES OVER – BINGO!

THE WING COMMANDER WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT IF THE PLAN TO BLOW THE BRIDGE FAILED, THEN THE CONVOY WOULD HAVE TO BE BOMBED.
THE BOMBING MUST TAKE PLACE WHERE THE GOLD WILL BE LOST. THE ROAD THEY'RE TAKING CLIMBS UP IN THE MOUNTAINS UP NORTH. THAT'S WHERE WE'LL BOMB.
WE'D NEVER MAKE IT THERE AND BACK, SIR.
LAOS
YOUR CREW HAVE DROPPED SUPPLIES OF FUEL AT THIS POINT HERE. OUR AGENT HAS CLEARED A STRIP. YOU WILL LAND THERE, REFUEL, BOMB THE CONVOY AND FLY BACK HERE.
QUITE AN OPERATION!
CURT ARLBERG WAS A SWISS. AS A NEUTRAL HE HAD WON THE CONFIDENCE OF THE JAPANESE. NEVERTHELESS HE HAD TO BE VERY WARY. THIS PARTICULAR MORNING HE RECEIVED A VISITOR.
GOOD MORNING, COLONEL AKIMOTO! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU, HERR ARLBERG. I MUST ASK YOU, HAVE YOU HEARD OR SEEN AIRCRAFT FLYING IN THE VICINITY RECENTLY?

CURT ARLBERG KNEW THAT HE WAS ONLY JUST TOLERATED BY THE JAPS. ONE FALSE STEP COULD BE HIS LAST. HE FOUND DIFFICULTY IN KEEPING A NATURAL VOICE ...

NO, I HAVE HEARD NO AIRCRAFT. SURELY THIS IS TOO FAR FROM THE FIGHTING FRONT?

IT WAS JUST A RUMOUR. I AM RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT YOU HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS. IT IS GOOD TO HAVE YOUR MOST RELIABLE OPINION.

CURT ARLBERG BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF AS COLONEL AKIMOTO DEPARTED.

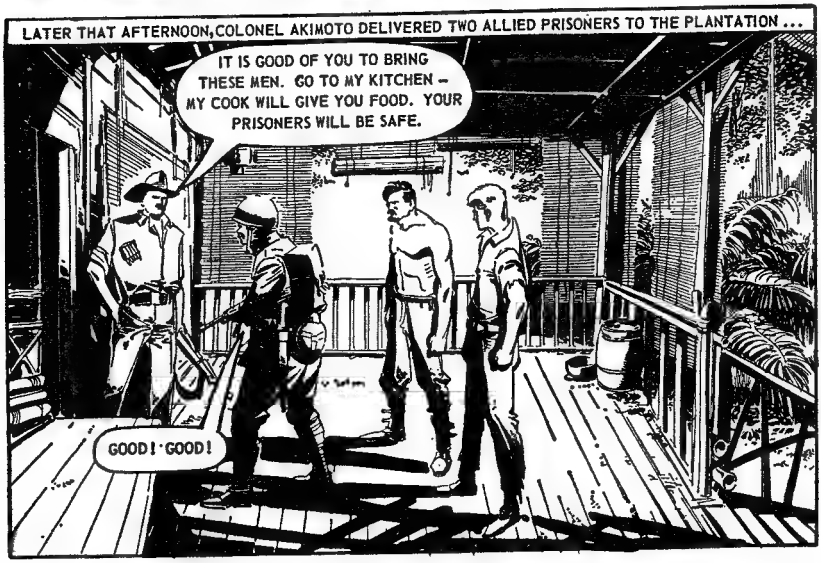
KUAN LAI, KEEP WATCH. I'M GOING TO THE TRANSMITTER. IF YOU SEE THEM RETURN, BLOW YOUR WHISTLE.

YES, TUAN.

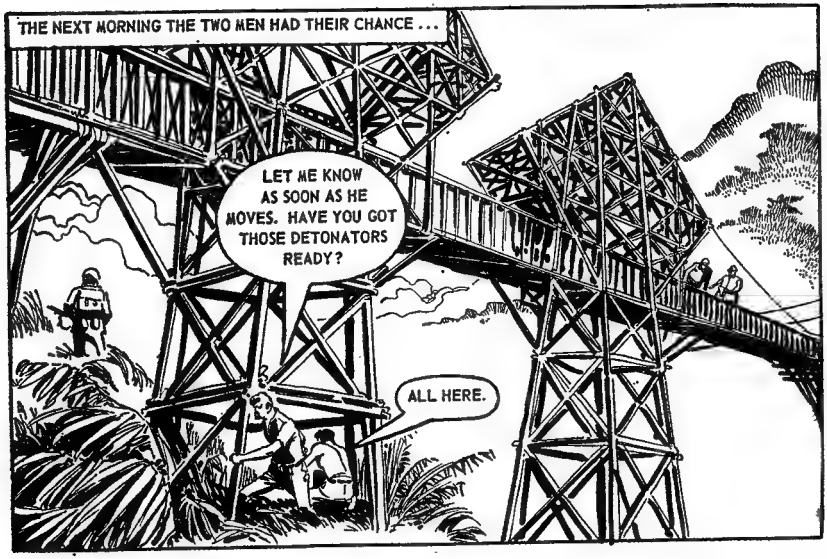
ARLBERG LISTENED OUT EACH MORNING AT MIDDAY. THIS MORNING HE RECEIVED THE MESSAGE HE HAD WAITED FOR ...

CONVOY DUE SALWEEN BRIDGE – EVENING OF NINETEENTH. THAT'S TOMORROW! IT LOOKS AS IF I'LL HAVE TO HAVE ANOTHER CHAT WITH AKIMOTO.

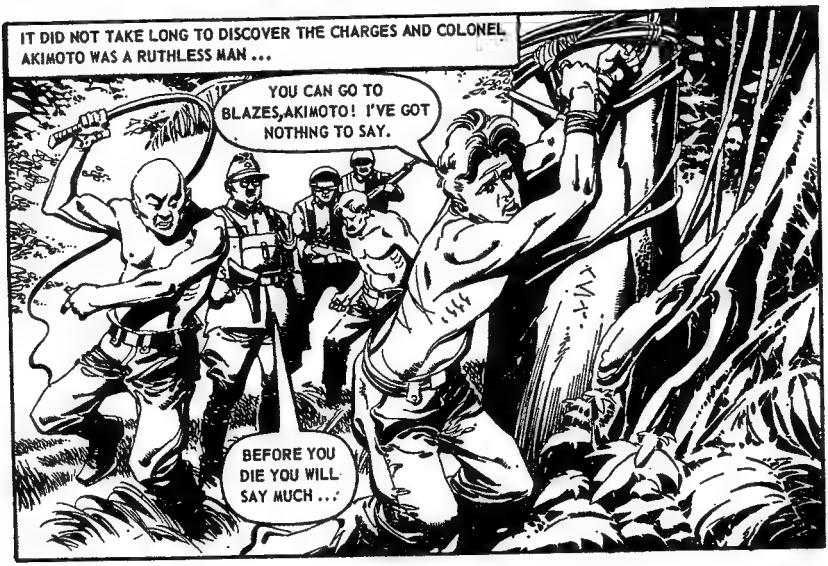
COLONEL AKIMOTO WAS VERY FOND OF EGGS. CURT ARLBERG ALWAYS HAD A SURPLUS. THEY WERE, AS ON THIS OCCASION, VERY USEFUL ...
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU IN RETURN? SOME OF THESE DOGS, PERHAPS, TO HELP YOU ON THE PLANTATION?
SINCE YOU MENTION IT, COLONEL, IF YOU COULD LEND ME TWO MEN ...


LATER THAT AFTERNOON, COLONEL AKIMOTO DELIVERED TWO ALLIED PRISONERS TO THE PLANTATION ...
IT IS GOOD OF YOU TO BRING THESE MEN. GO TO MY KITCHEN – MY COOK WILL GIVE YOU FOOD. YOUR PRISONERS WILL BE SAFE.
GOOD! GOOD!

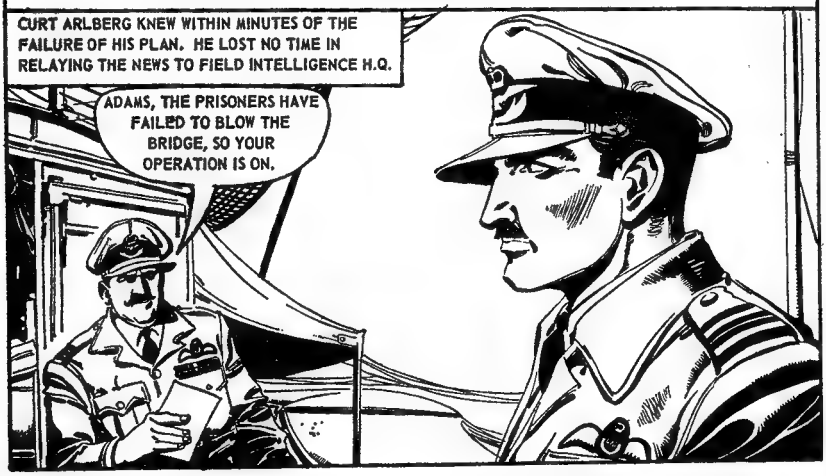
ARLBERG LED THE TWO PRISONERS, LIEUTENANT JACK JONES AND LIEUTENANT DAVE BOWLES, INTO THE JUNGLE. ALREADY HE HAD PREPARED FOOD FOR THEM. WHILE THEY ATE HE EXPLAINED.
I HAVE THE EXPLOSIVE HERE AND DETONATORS. CAN YOU LAY IT ON THE BRIDGE ..?
LEAVE IT TO US, ARLBERG. NOW THAT THE BRIDGE IS PRETTY WELL FINISHED THE GUARDS DON'T SEEM TO BOTHER US MUCH.

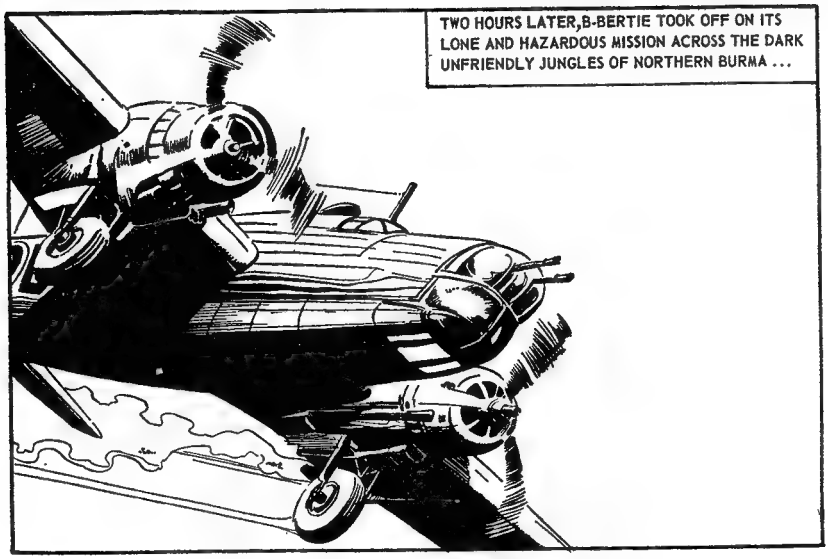

THE NEXT MORNING THE TWO MEN HAD THEIR CHANCE ...
LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS HE MOVES. HAVE YOU GOT THOSE DETONATORS READY?
ALL HERE.

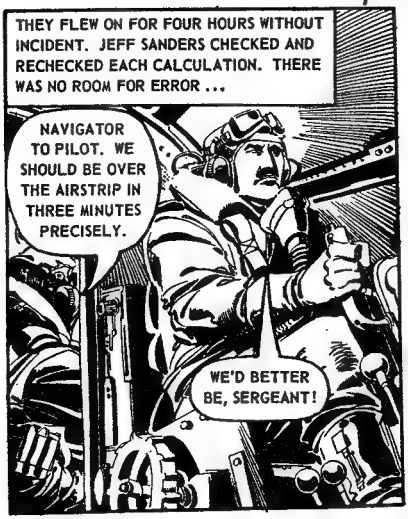
BUT COLONEL AKIMOTO HAD CHOSEN THAT MOMENT TO INSPECT HIS PRECIOUS BRIDGE. HIS KEEN EYES SPOTTED THE MOVEMENT BELOW HIM...
LOOK AT THOSE LONG NOSE DEVILS. THEY ARE UP TO SOMETHING. BRING THEM TO ME!
AT ONCE, YOUR EXCELLENCY.

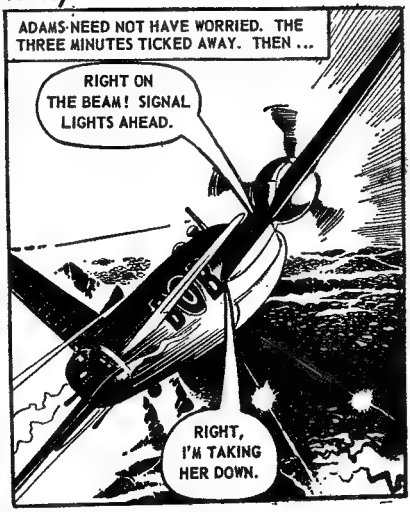

IT DID NOT TAKE LONG TO DISCOVER THE CHARGES AND COLONEL AKIMOTO WAS A RUTHLESS MAN ...
YOU CAN GO TO BLAZES, AKIMOTO! I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY.
BEFORE YOU DIE YOU WILL SAY MUCH ...

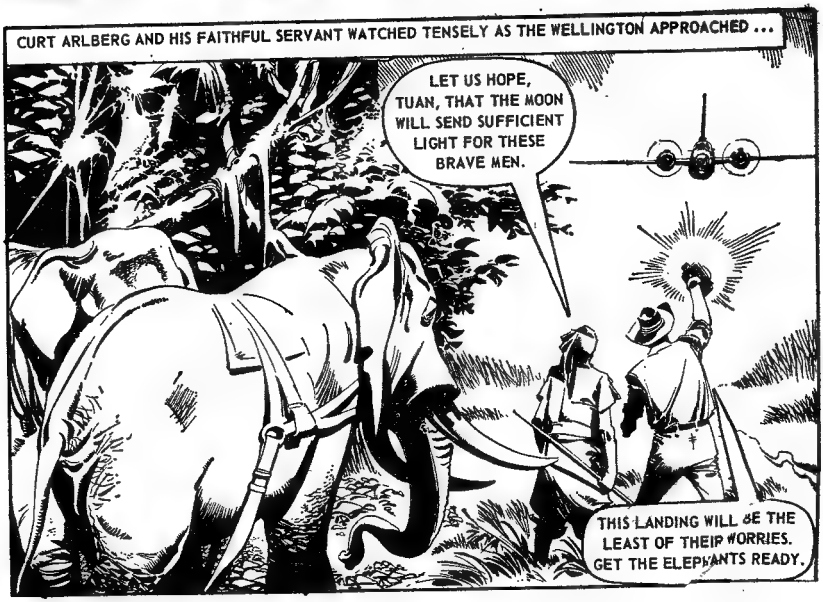
CHAPTER 3. Treasure Convoy

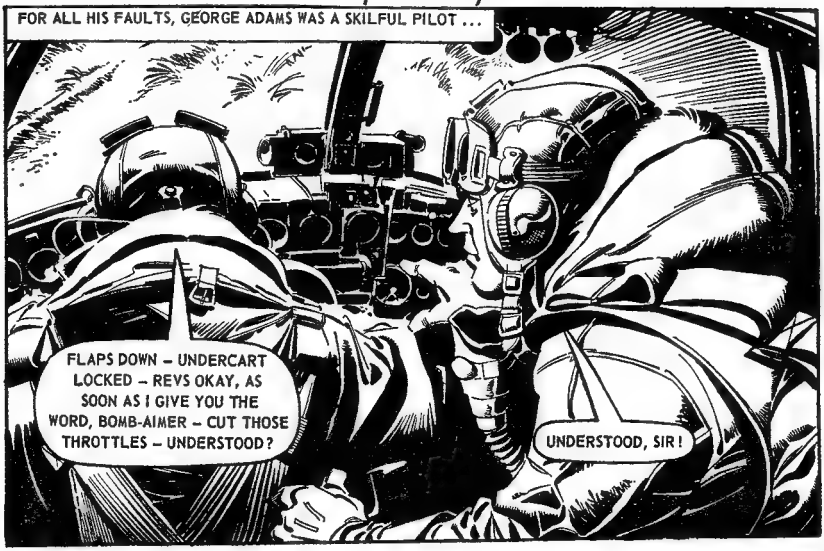




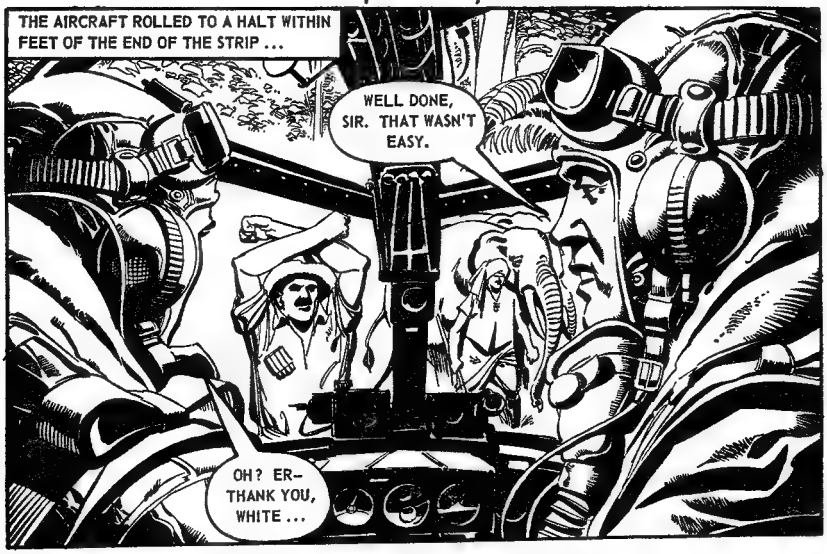

THEY FLEW ON FOR FOUR HOURS WITHOUT INCIDENT. JEFF SANDERS CHECKED AND RECHECKED EACH CALCULATION. THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR ERROR ...
NAVIGATOR TO PILOT. WE SHOULD BE OVER THE AIRSTRIP IN THREE MINUTES PRECISELY.
WE'D BETTER BE, SERGEANT!


ADAMS NEED NOT HAVE WORRIED. THE THREE MINUTES TICKED AWAY. THEN ...
RIGHT ON THE BEAM! SIGNAL LIGHTS AHEAD.
RIGHT, I'M TAKING HER DOWN.

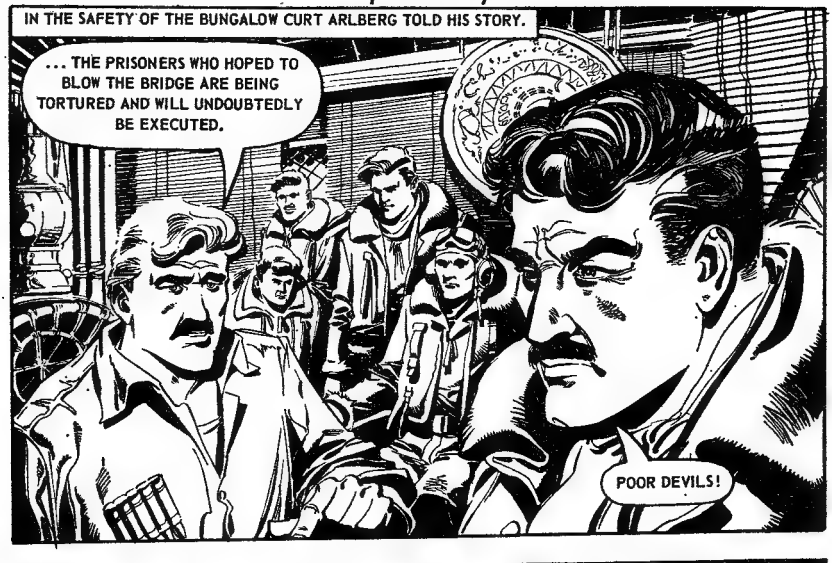

CURT ARLBERG AND HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT WATCHED TENSELY AS THE WELLINGTON APPROACHED ...
LET US HOPE, TUAN, THAT THE MOON WILL SEND SUFFICIENT LIGHT FOR THESE BRAVE MEN.
THIS LANDING WILL BE THE LEAST OF THEIR WORRIES. GET THE ELEPHANTS READY.


FOR ALL HIS FAULTS, GEORGE ADAMS WAS A SKILFUL PILOT ...
FLAPS DOWN – UNDERCART LOCKED – REVS OKAY, AS SOON AS I GIVE YOU THE WORD, BOMB-AIMER – CUT THOSE THROTTLES – UNDERSTOOD?
UNDERSTOOD, SIR!

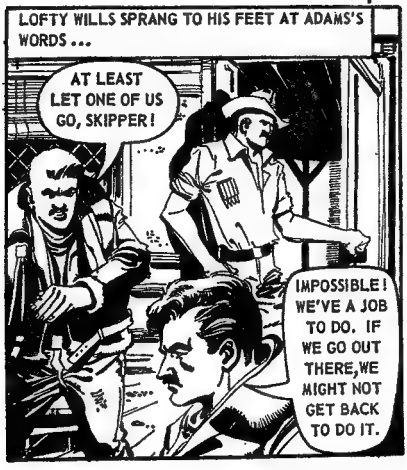
HE NEEDED ALL HIS SKILL TO BRING THE WELLINGTON DOWN ON THAT NARROW STRIP HEMMED IN BY DENSE JUNGLE ...
RIGHT – CUT!
BOB

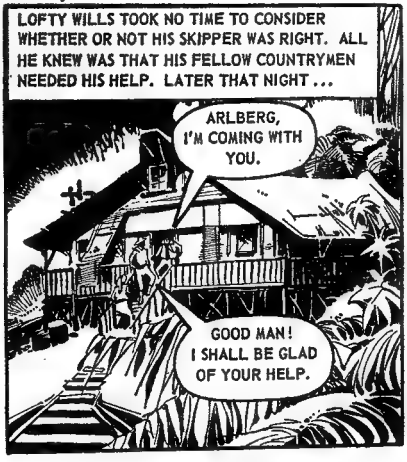

THE AIRCRAFT ROLLED TO A HALT WITHIN FEET OF THE END OF THE STRIP ...
WELL DONE, SIR. THAT WASN'T EASY.
OH? ER- THANK YOU, WHITE ...

ADAMS HAD NOT EXPECTED COMPLIMENTS FROM ONE OF HIS CREW. HE WAS STILL SURPRISED BY IT AS THEY CLAMBERED ON TO THE STRIP ...
MY BOYS WILL HIDE THE AIRCRAFT AND REFUEL FOR YOU. WE MUST HURRY THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE.
ALL I WANT IS SOME SLEEP. WE'RE TAKING OFF AGAIN AN HOUR BEFORE DAWN.


IN THE SAFETY OF THE BUNGALOW CURT ARLBERG TOLD HIS STORY.
... THE PRISONERS WHO HOPED TO BLOW THE BRIDGE ARE BEING TORTURED AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE EXECUTED.
POOR DEVILS!

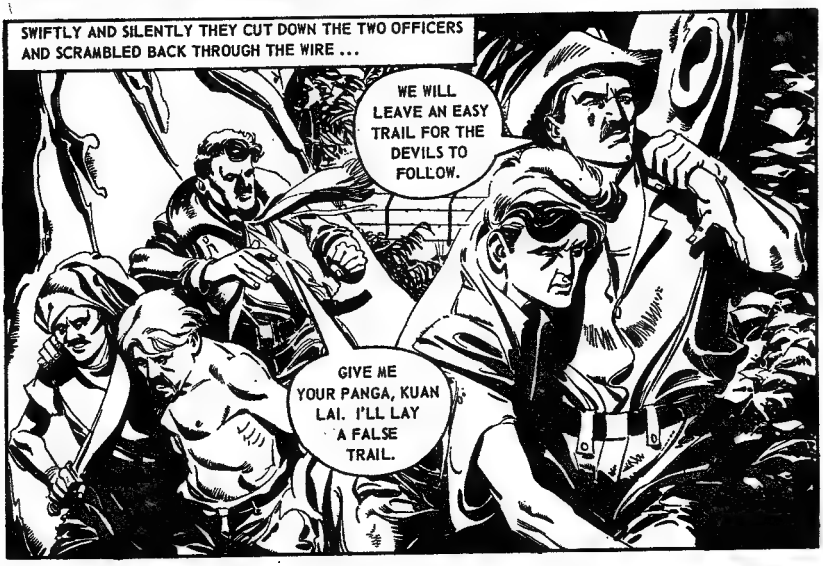
ARLBERG LEANED FORWARD ...
I WAS RATHER HOPING THAT YOU MIGHT HELP ME TO RESCUE THESE MEN, SQUADRON LEADER.
WE CAN'T GO WITH YOU. BUT IF YOU CAN GET THEM TO THE AIRCRAFT BEFORE WE TAKE OFF, WE'LL TAKE THEM BACK WITH US.


LOFTY WILLS SPRANG TO HIS FEET AT ADAMS'S WORDS ...
AT LEAST LET ONE OF US GO, SKIPPER!
IMPOSSIBLE! WE'VE A JOB TO DO. IF WE GO OUT THERE, WE MIGHT NOT GET BACK TO DO IT.


LOFTY WILLS TOOK NO TIME TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT HIS SKIPPER WAS RIGHT. ALL HE KNEW WAS THAT HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMEN NEEDED HIS HELP. LATER THAT NIGHT ...
ARLBERG, I'M COMING WITH YOU.
GOOD MAN! I SHALL BE GLAD OF YOUR HELP.

THE THREE MEN CREPT SILENTLY TO THE JAP CAMP. THEY HAD LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN FINDING THE TWO PRISONERS ...
WE'RE IN LUCK. THERE IS BUT ONE GUARD, – HE LOOKS ASLEEP.
LEAVE HIM TO ME. IT'LL BE A PLEASURE.

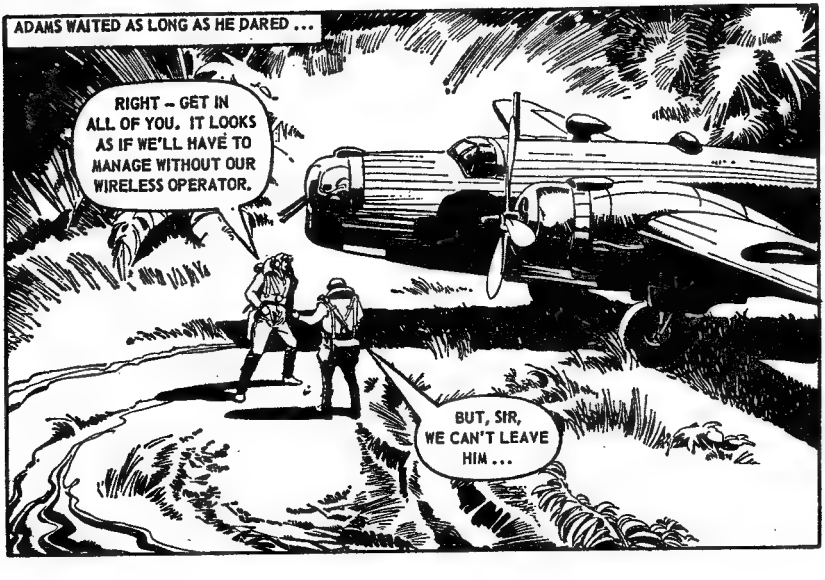
LOFTY PROLONGED THE JAP'S SLEEP WITH A PILE DRIVING LEFT ...
UGGH!
COME ON, KUAN!


SWIFTLY AND SILENTLY THEY CUT DOWN THE TWO OFFICERS AND SCRAMBLED BACK THROUGH THE WIRE ...
WE WILL LEAVE AN EASY TRAIL FOR THE DEVILS TO FOLLOW.
GIVE ME YOUR PANGA, KUAN LAI. I'LL LAY A FALSE TRAIL.

LOFTY TOOK THE PANGA AND BEGAN HACKING A TRAIL AWAY FROM THE MAIN PATH ...
TAKE CARE YOU. DON'T LOSE YOURSELF!
DON'T WORRY. I'LL SEE YOU AT THE BUNGALOW!

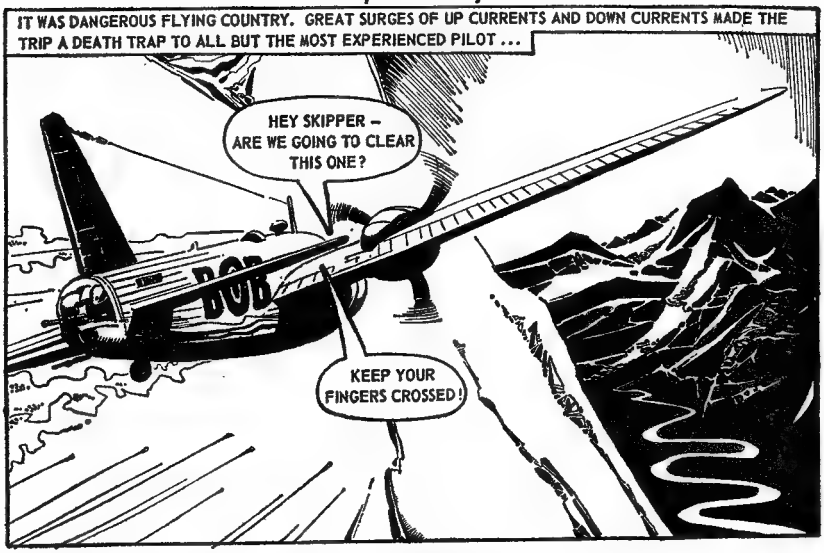
THE CREW OF B-BERTIE SLEPT FITFULLY IN THE BUNGALOW. ADAMS WAS THE FIRST TO WAKEN ...
COME ON, BLOKES, WAKE UP. TIME WE GOT CRACKING.
HEY, SNOWY! WHERE'S LOFTY?

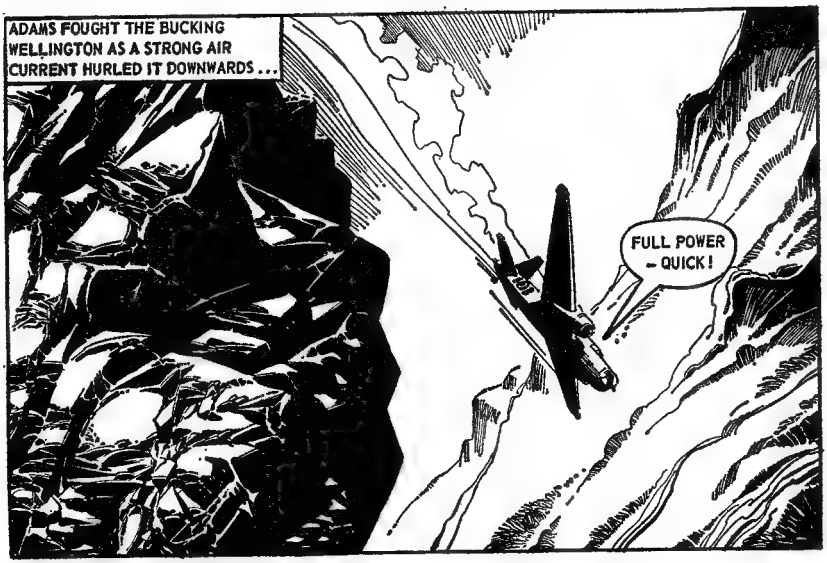
THEY GRABBED THEIR FLYING KIT AND STEPPED OUTSIDE, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF LOFTY ...
HE MUST HAVE GONE WITH ARLBERG!
THE MAN'S A FOOL. HE COULD WRECK THIS WHOLE OPERATION!


ADAMS WAITED AS LONG AS HE DARED ...
RIGHT – GET IN ALL OF YOU. IT LOOKS AS IF WE'LL HAVE TO MANAGE WITHOUT OUR WIRELESS OPERATOR.
BUT, SIR, WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM ...

LOFTY WILLS HAD DONE A GOOD JOB. TOO GOOD. THE JAPS WERE FOLLOWING HIS FALSE TRAIL – BUT HE WAS LOST.
THAT'S TORN IT – TAKE-OFF TIME IN THIRTY SECONDS. ADAMS WON'T WAIT THAT'S FOR SURE...

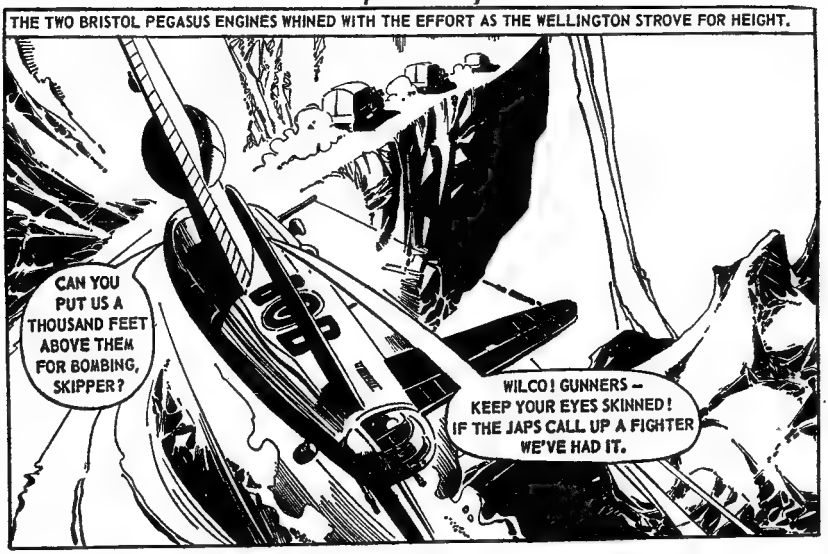
THE BRITISH AGENT AND KUAN LAI REACHED THE AIRSTRIP AS THE WELLINGTON ROSE INTO THE SKY...
THERE THEY GO. THEY COULD NOT WAIT.
THEY'VE GOT THEIR JOB TO DO. THEY'LL CALL BACK – THEY'RE BOUND TO.


IT WAS DANGEROUS FLYING COUNTRY. GREAT SURGES OF UP CURRENTS AND DOWN CURRENTS MADE THE TRIP A DEATH TRAP TO ALL BUT THE MOST EXPERIENCED PILOT ...
HEY SKIPPER – ARE WE GOING TO CLEAR THIS ONE?
KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED!


ADAMS FOUGHT THE BUCKING WELLINGTON AS A STRONG AIR CURRENT HURLED IT DOWNWARDS ...
FULL POWER – QUICK!

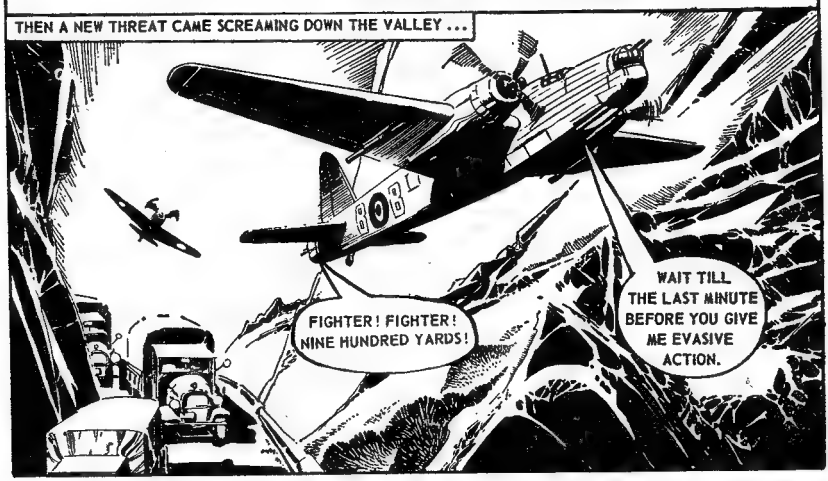
THE CREW HAD TO ADMIRE THE COOLNESS OF THEIR SKIPPER AS HE REGAINED CONTROL. THEN SNOWY SPOTTED MOVEMENT IN FRONT OF THEM ...
WE'LL HAVE TO GAIN HEIGHT.
THE CONVOY! IF WE DON'T HURRY THEY'LL REACH THE TOP.

THE LEADER OF THE JAPANESE CONVOY SAW THE AIRCRAFT AND GUESSED ITS PURPOSE.
HELLO CONTROL! A BRITISH BOMBER IS TRYING TO ATTACK US – PLEASE SEND FIGHTER COVER – OVER.


THE TWO BRISTOL PEGASUS ENGINES WHINED WITH THE EFFORT AS THE WELLINGTON STROVE FOR HEIGHT.
CAN YOU PUT US A THOUSAND FEET ABOVE THEM FOR BOMBING, SKIPPER?
WILCO! GUNNERS – KEEP YOUR EYES SKINNED! IF THE JAPS CALL UP A FIGHTER WE'VE HAD IT.

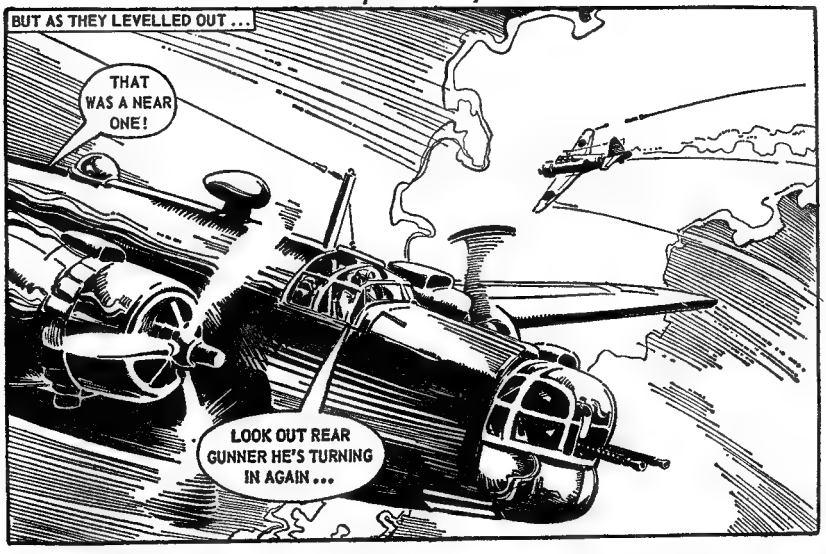
AS THEY CLIMBED THEY CAME WITHIN RANGE OF SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM THE JAPS' GUNS ...
RQH

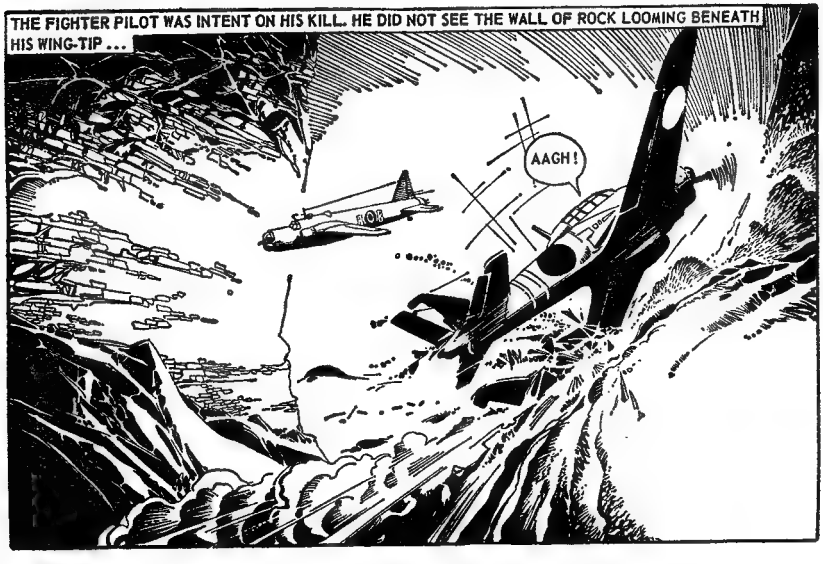
CHAPTER 4. Birth of a Team



AT THE LAST MOMENT THE REAR GUNNER YELLED DOWN THE INTERCOM ...
DIVE TO PORT – GO!

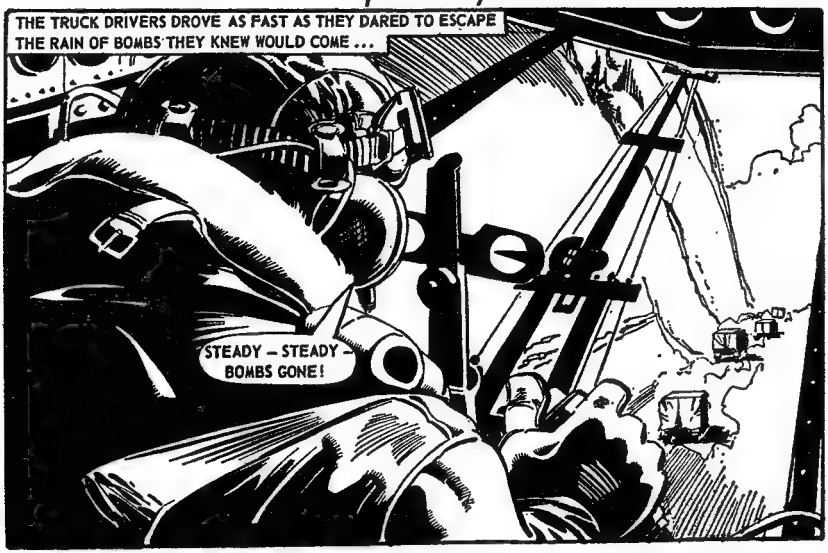
THE JAP FIGHTER OVERSHOT AS THE WELLINGTON ROARED DOWN INTO THE VALLEY ...

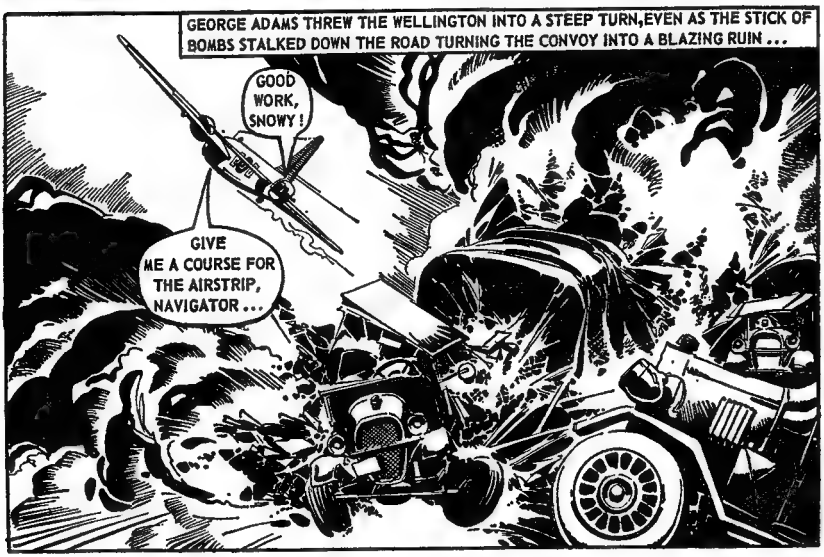

BUT AS THEY LEVELLED OUT ...
THAT WAS A NEAR ONE!
LOOK OUT REAR GUNNER HE'S TURNING IN AGAIN ...


THE FIGHTER PILOT WAS INTENT ON HIS KILL. HE DID NOT SEE THE WALL OF ROCK LOOMING BENEATH HIS WING-TIP ...
AAGH!

THE END WAS SEEN ON THE ROAD TWO HUNDRED FEET BELOW ...
THE FOOL HAS CRASHED. GET THE CONVOY MOVING!

AS THE TRUCKS BEGAN TO MOVE, THE WELLINGTON THUNDERED IN WITH BOMB DOORS OPEN ...
OKAY SKIPPER, KEEP HER LIKE THAT ...


THE TRUCK DRIVERS DROVE AS FAST AS THEY DARED TO ESCAPE THE RAIN OF BOMBS THEY KNEW WOULD COME ...
STEADY – STEADY – BOMBS GONE!

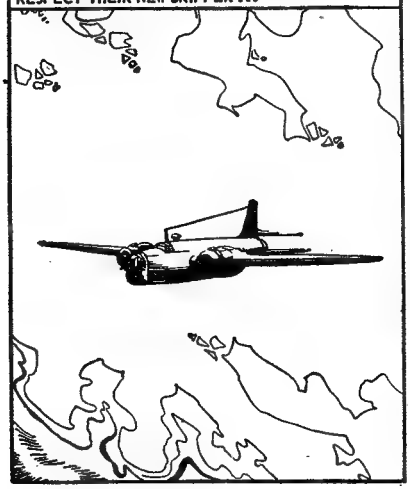

GEORGE ADAMS THREW THE WELLINGTON INTO A STEEP TURN, EVEN AS THE STICK OF BOMBS STALKED DOWN THE ROAD TURNING THE CONVOY INTO A BLAZING RUIN ...
GOOD WORK, SNOWY!
GIVE ME A COURSE FOR THE AIRSTRIP, NAVIGATOR ...

THE CREW WERE SO ELATED BY SUCCESS THAT FOR A FEW SECONDS THEY DID NOT REALISE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ADAMS'S REMARK.

YOU GOING TO PICK UP LOFTY, SKIPPER?

YES. HE MIGHT BE A FOOL FOR RUNNING OFF LIKE HE DID, BUT I'LL NOT LEAVE A MEMBER OF MY CREW TO THE TENDER MERCIES OF THE JAPS!

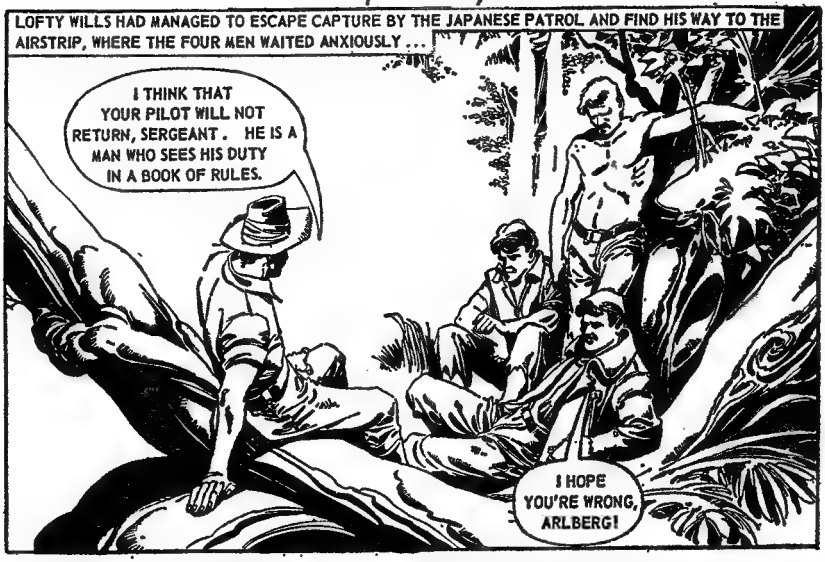
ADAMS'S CREW HAD NOT EXPECTED A RESCUE ATTEMPT. NOW THEY WERE BEGINNING TO RESPECT THEIR NEW SKIPPER ...



AS THEY NEARED THE AIRSTRIP ...

NEARLY THERE SKIPPER. WHAT IF THE JAPS ARE WAITING FOR US?

WE'LL HAVE TO CHANCE IT. BUT KEEP YOUR EYES SKINNED WHEN WE GO IN!


LOFTY WILLS HAD MANAGED TO ESCAPE CAPTURE BY THE JAPANESE PATROL AND FIND HIS WAY TO THE AIRSTRIP, WHERE THE FOUR MEN WAITED ANXIOUSLY ...
I THINK THAT YOUR PILOT WILL NOT RETURN, SERGEANT. HE IS A MAN WHO SEES HIS DUTY IN A BOOK OF RULES.
I HOPE YOU'RE WRONG, ARLBERG!

MEANWHILE, COLONEL AKIMOTO HAD DISCOVERED THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HIS TWO PRISONERS. HE KNEW THERE WAS ONLY ONE PLACE THEY WOULD HIDE AND HE AND HIS MEN WERE SEARCHING THE VICINITY OF ARLBERG'S BUNGALOW ...
WHERE IS YOUR MASTER? THE SO-CALLED NEUTRAL, HERR ARLBERG ...
I DO NOT KNOW, YOUR EXCELLENCY.

THEN AN EXCITED SHOUT CAME FROM ONE OF THE COLONEL'S MEN ...
COLONEL SAN! COME QUICKLY!

AKIMOTO STARED AT THE TRANSMITTER. THERE WAS COLD FURY IN HIS VOICE ...
SO! MY SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED! WE MUST FIND THIS MAN ARLBERG ...

EVEN AS THE JAPS SPREAD THEIR SEARCH, B-BERTIE WAS APPROACHING ITS JUNGLE LANDING GROUND ...

THERE IT IS! I'M TAKING HER DOWN. STAND BY TO CUT SWITCHES!

RIGHT, SIR!

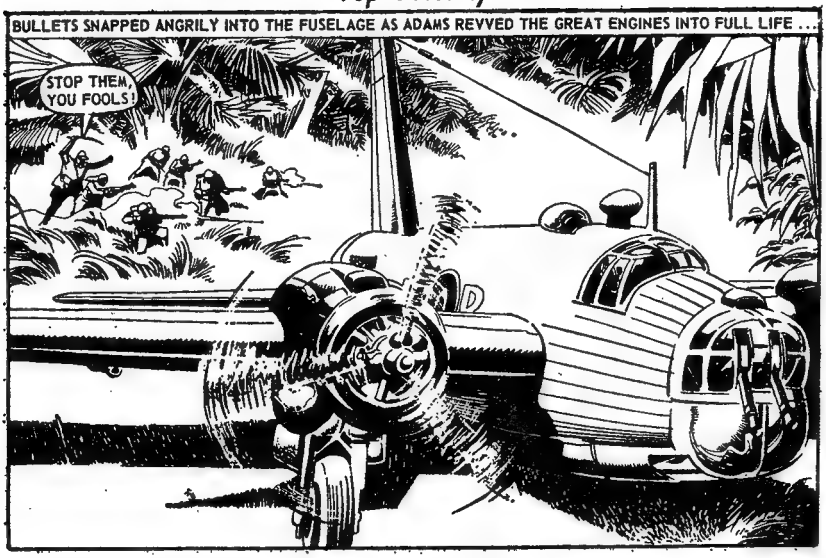
LOOKS LIKE WE MISJUDGED ADAMS. IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO BRING THIS OFF!

NONE OF THE CREW SAW THE FLEETING FIGURES OF JAPANESE SOLDIERS AS THE WELLINGTON SKIMMED THE TREE-TOPS ...

AN ENGLISH AEROPLANE! QUICKLY, YOU DOGS! SEIZE THEM.

ADAMS BROUGHT THE PLANE TO A SKIDDING HALT AND SNOWY LEAPT FROM THE COCKPIT ...
COME ON, YOU BLOKES. HURRY!
COME ON! THAT'S OUR TICKET TO FREEDOM ...

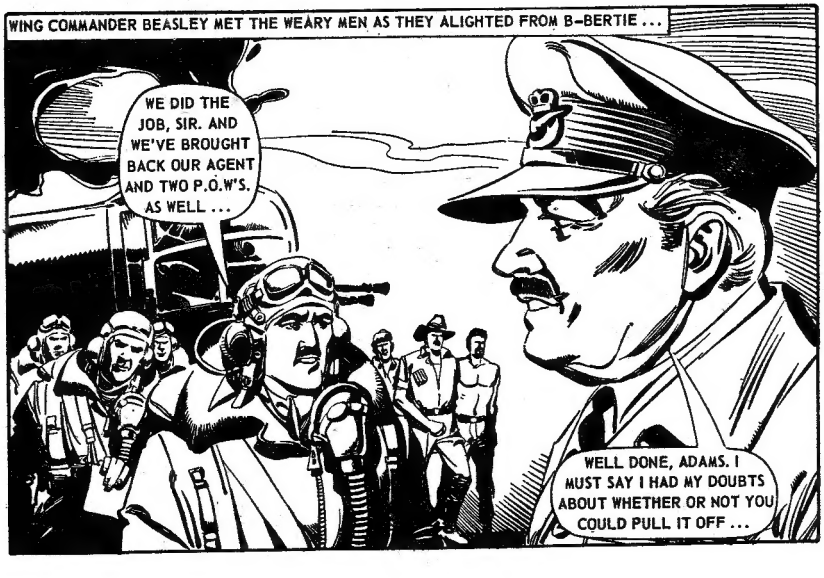
EVEN AS THEY SCRAMBLED ABOARD, THE FIRST ENEMY TROOPS CAME RUNNING FROM THE JUNGLE ...
KILL THE KETO!
GET IN MAN – IT'S THE JAPS!


BULLETS SNAPPED ANGRILY INTO THE FUSELAGE AS ADAMS REVVED THE GREAT ENGINES INTO FULL LIFE ...
STOP THEM, YOU FOOLS!

AS THE WELLINGTON TRUNDLED FORWARD, BILL PARSONS OPENED FIRE – WITH DEVASTATING EFFECT ...
TAKE IT, NIPS!

OTHER JAPANESE RAN IN FRONT OF THE SPEEDING BOMBER BUT BEFORE THEY COULD BRING EFFECTIVE FIRE TO BEAR, ADAMS LIFTED THE WELLINGTON INTO THE AIR . . .

DARKNESS WAS APPROACHING AS THE WELLINGTON FLEW INTO ITS BASE AIRFIELD IN THE SOUTH ...
THAT'S THEM NOW, SIR.
YES, BY THUNDER – YOU'RE RIGHT!


WING COMMANDER BEASLEY MET THE WEARY MEN AS THEY ALIGHTED FROM B-BERTIE ...
WE DID THE JOB, SIR. AND WE'VE BROUGHT BACK OUR AGENT AND TWO P.O.W'S. AS WELL ...
WELL DONE, ADAMS. I MUST SAY I HAD MY DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU COULD PULL IT OFF ...

Printed in England by Fleetway Printers, 17 Sumner Street, London, S.E.1, and published each month by Fleetway Publications Ltd., Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4. Subscription Rates: Inland £3.2.0 for 48 numbers. Overseas £3.0.0 for 48 numbers. Sole Agents: Australia and New Zealand, Gordon & Gotch, Ltd.; South Africa, Central News Agency, Ltd.; Rhodesia, Zambia and Malawi, Kingstons, Ltd. AIR ACE PICTURE LIBRARY is sold subject to the following conditions, that it shall not, without the written consent of the Publishers first given, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of by way of Trade except at the full retail price as shown on the cover; and that it shall not be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of in a mutilated condition, or in any unauthorised cover by way of Trade; or affixed to or as part of any publication or advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever. 17/10/66 SG

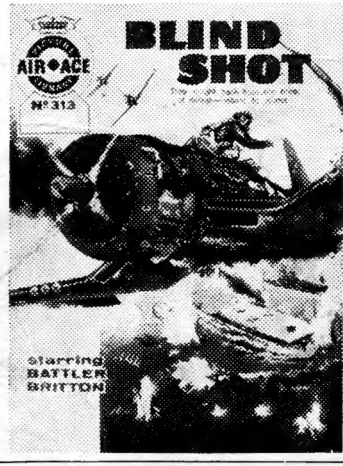
3 MORE THRILLING "AIR ACES" FOR YOU

No. 311
THE SPIDER'S WEB

With bombs and bullets, the Marauders hit hard at their secret enemy.

No. 312
CHAIN OF COMMAND

He would rather fight with a gun than a pen.



No. 313
BLIND SHOT

They fought back from the brink of defeat—island by island.

NOW ON SALE—BUY THEM TODAY!

Send NOW for FREE CATALOGUE

featuring the

MOST WONDERFUL

RING VALUE IN THE WORLD!

CRESTA

of Oxford St

NO EXTRA CHARGE for EXTENDED CREDIT

OVER 10,000 RINGS IN STOCK

GENUINE DIAMOND RINGS

101. 1 Diamond. 1st payment 17/6 and 8 payments 17/- or Cash price £7.13.6

317. 3 Diamonds. 1st payment 37/6 and 8 payments 37/6 or Cash price £16.17.6

Ruby cluster. 1st payment 72/- and 8 payments 71/- or Cash price £32.0.0

140. 1 Diamond. 1st payment 64/6 and 8 payments 61/6 or Cash price £27.16.6

342. 3 Diamonds. 1st payment 81/- and 8 payments 78/- or Cash price £35.5.0

922. Gold Wedding. 1st payment 7/6. 8 payments 10/- or Cash price £4-7-6

302. 3 Diamonds. 1st payment 25/- and 8 payments 20/6 or Cash price £9.9.0

507. 5 Diamonds. 1st payment 105/- and 8 payments 102/6 or Cash price £46.5.0

27. Solid Gold. 1st payment 12/- and 8 payments 13/6 or Cash price £6-0-0

Choose from this lavish FREE Catalogue. The ring of your choice sent in a beautiful presentation box. FULLY COVERED BY FREE INSURANCE. You can pay later—no need to touch your savings! **NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR EXTENDED PAYMENTS.** Rings from £3.10.0 to £135.

★ ***Special arrangements for ALL H.M. FORCES & CUSTOMERS ABROAD***

Immediate attention given to orders ensures extra speedy service. Rings, with appropriate message, as desired, sent to any address—anywhere. Royal Navy Service men can purchase through pay allotment.

CRESTA'S foolproof guarantee cannot be surpassed!

Rings from £3.10 – £135

POST TODAY
SEND NO MONEY
NO DEPOSIT

CRESTA (LONDON) LTD.,
64-66 Oxford St., London, W.1

Please send without obligation FREE Catalogue (with FREE ring gauge) of Engagement, Wedding, Dress & Signet Rings, & Watches.

NAME .....
(Block Letters)
ADDRESS .....

.....

110 A.A.4